

The New York Times

Late Edition

New York: Today, a few morning showers, then clearing, mild. High 60. Tonight, fog. Low 52. Tomorrow, partly sunny, very warm. High 74. Yesterday: High 66, low 45. Details are on page C8.

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NEW YORK, MONDAY, MARCH 12, 1990

50 cents beyond 75 miles from New York City, except on Long Island.

40 CENTS

PARLIAMENT IN LITHUANIA, 124-0, DECLARES NATION INDEPENDENT

NO SOVIET REACTION

New Leaders Are Named
to Negotiate Future
Ties With Moscow

By BILL KELLER

Special to The New York Times

VILNIUS, Lithuania, March 11 — Lithuania tonight proclaimed itself a sovereign state, legally free of the Soviet Union, and named the leaders of a non-Communist government to negotiate their future relations with Moscow.

The Lithuanian parliament voted 124 to 0, with 9 abstentions and absentees, to restore the independent statehood ended by Soviet annexation 50 years ago. The Lithuanian Communist Party, which won only a minority of seats in parliamentary elections last month, joined the non-Communist majority in the vote, and in an outburst of songs and embraces that followed.

"Expressing the will of the people, the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian Republic declares and solemnly proclaims the restoration of the exercise of sovereign powers of the Lithuanian state, which were annulled by an alien power in 1940," said a resolution passed late tonight. "From now on, Lithuania is once again an independent state."

Full Implications Unclear

It was not immediately clear what the full implications of the Lithuanian action were. According to Lithuanian leaders, Mikhail S. Gorbachev, the Soviet President, has indicated a willingness to negotiate the conditions of independence. But there was no immediate reaction to the declaration of independence either from Mr. Gorbachev or the Soviet Government.

Tass, the Soviet press agency, issued a factual report of the Lithuanian action without comment. Reports on national television were similar.

[The Bush Administration urged the Soviet Union to respect the Lithuanian move, but stopped short of an explicit statement of recognition of the newly declared government. Noting instead that the United States never recognized Soviet authority over the Baltic republics, officials urged nonviolence and said that only through talks with Moscow, not unilateral action, would Lithuanians achieve what they want. Page A11.]

Hundreds of Lithuanians gathered outside the parliament building, singing national hymns and chanting independence slogans, as the legislators changed the name of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic to simply the Lithuanian Republic and ordered the

hammer and sickle replaced by the old Lithuanian coat of arms.

At one point, people in the crowd outside used screwdrivers to pry the copper Soviet insignia from the front of the building, to a roar of approval.

But behind the united front, many legislators and ordinary citizens voiced deep worry about how Moscow would respond to this precedent-setting breach in the union. The most common fear was a wave of economic reprisals that could produce fuel shortages and unemployment, threatening the state with chaos.

Other legislators worried that such a dramatic act of defiance, especially on the eve of an important Soviet congressional gathering, would weaken President Gorbachev, who has so far generally acquiesced to Lithuania's drive for freedom.

New Leader Urges Calm

Before approving the law completing the political break with Moscow, the parliament elected as Lithuania's new president Vytautas Landsbergis, a soft-spoken music professor who led the pro-independence movement called Sajudis from an eclectic band of dissidents to a legislative majority.

By a vote of 91 to 38, the Sajudis-dominated legislature elected Mr. Landsbergis over Algirdas Brazauskas, the Lithuanian Communist Party

leader, whose personal popularity has soared since his party broke with the Soviet Communist Party in December, but not enough to overcome the Communists' association with decades of occupation.

Mr. Landsbergis urged the 3.7 million citizens of the republic to be calm and united as they enter a period of tense negotiations aimed at persuading Moscow to treat them as a friendly neighbor. On Monday the parliament is to consider an appeal to Mr. Gorbachev asking for withdrawal of the more than 30,000 Soviet troops based in Lithuania and the speedy repatriation of Lithuanian men serving in the Soviet Army.

"We cannot ignore the interests of our neighbors, particularly our neighbors to the east," the new Lithuanian president said. "But we will not be asking for permission to take this or that step."

Mr. Brazauskas is an economist by training, and supporters said the Communist leader would be a more reassuring presence at the bargaining table where details of the disengagement are to be worked out. But Mr. Landsbergis represented a clean break with the 50-year period that Lithuanians regard as an armed occupation.

The neighboring Baltic republics, Latvia and Estonia, are also moving toward secession.

"It will be contagious for other republics," said Mr. Brazauskas, who voted for today's decision but had earlier argued for a more gradual separation. "Perhaps some will follow our example. But a great state like the Soviet Union will not collapse easily."

Although the Communists here voted for the declaration of independence, Mr. Brazauskas declined an offer to be vice president, and other party members said they were not interested in prominent positions in the new government.

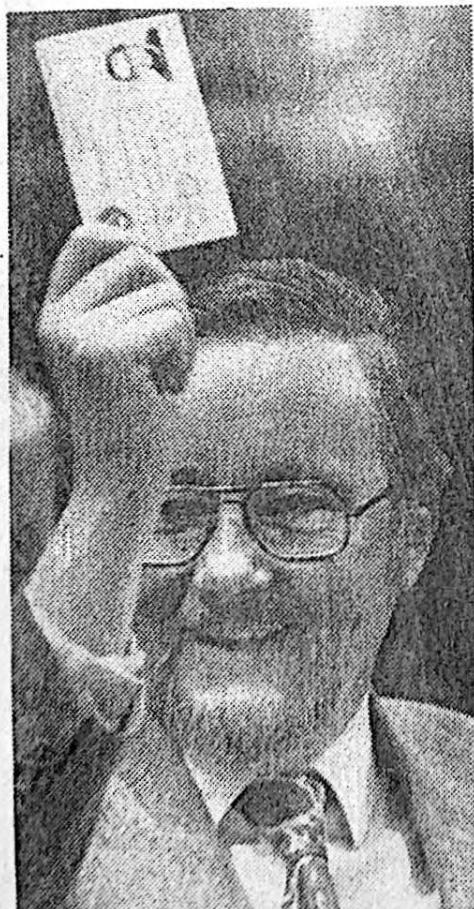
Other Officials Named

Mr. Landsbergis appointed three deputies, one a Communist and two who have quit the party, and named as prime minister a market-oriented economist, Kazimiera Prunskiene, who has announced her plans to leave the party.

Ustas J. Paleckis, the Communist party ideology chief, said that the Communists were persuaded that Sajudis did not want to share power on a more equal basis and that some party officials had decided they would remain aloof from the government and let Sajudis take responsibility for the consequences.

In the corridors outside the parliamentary chamber, Mr. Brazauskas's Communists — about one third of the 133 legislators — and some non-Communists wondered aloud about the wisdom of moving so quickly to declare independence.

"Probably a third of the deputies think it is crazy to rush into this," said a local journalist sympathetic to Sajudis. "But anyone who speaks against it is sure to be branded a traitor."



Reuters

Vytautas Landsbergis, the newly elected President of the Lithuanian Republic, voting yesterday at a meeting of Parliament.



Associated Press

Lithuanians cheering in Vilnius yesterday after the election of a non-Communist President.

No representatives of Moscow were evident in the hall.

Though there was no official reaction from the Kremlin, members of the parliamentary opposition in Moscow sent a message of congratulations, and Sergei Kovalyov, a human rights advocate and former political prisoner recently elected to the Russian republic's parliament, came here to applaud Lithuania's move.

"A lot of Russians will say, 'We liberated you from the Germans, we helped you industrialize,'" Mr. Kovalyov said in a brief address to the parliament. "None of them will say that we deported half of the Lithuanian peo-

ple to Siberia."

In recent days Mr. Gorbachev and other Soviet officials served notice that Moscow would make billions of rubles in financial claims on Lithuania if it secedes, and challenged Lithuania's boundaries, including its right to the Baltic seaport of Klaipeda, also called Memel. Mr. Gorbachev has also repeatedly cited security risks for Moscow in the loss of the republic, and promised to defend the rights of the republic's non-Lithuanian minority, 20 percent of the population.

There have already been some signs of stepped-up pressure, including a freeze by the Soviet Government-con-

trolled banks on the assets of Lithuanian savings banks, that have led leaders of the republic to speculate about a possible economic blockade.

Annual trade between Lithuania and other Soviet republics is estimated at \$24 billion at the official rate of exchange, including almost all of Lithuania's subsidized oil supplies.

Another fear is that Moscow could shut down centrally run industrial enterprises, throwing half a million Russian blue-collar workers out of jobs and raising ethnic tensions.

"My fear is that if we do not understand the progressive forces in Moscow, we can bring them a lot of dan-



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In Vilnius, the Lithuanian parliament voted to break away from Moscow.

ger," Mr. Paleckis added. "And it will be danger for us as well. If Mr. Gorbachev loses, our declaration of independence will make moral sense, but . . ."

Mr. Landsbergis replied that "the people of Lithuania are not naive. Even after listening to frequent warnings about how difficult it was going to be, they voted all the same for the Sajudis platform. We consider that a kind of referendum."

Mr. Landsbergis said he hoped for prompt recognition from foreign countries, including the United States, which has never formally acknowledged the annexation of the three Baltic republics but has been wary of undermining Mr. Gorbachev.

The vote was the climax of a campaign that began gathering momentum less than two years ago, with the creation of the Sajudis initiative group in June, 1988.

A year ago, the alliance proved its strength by capturing most of the republic's seats in a new Soviet Parliament.

Mr. Landsbergis and several other lawmakers said they would no longer participate as voting members of the Soviet Parliament, although they might come to Moscow as observers or as members of a bargaining team to work out the details of secession.

Lithuania's Long Path From and Back Toward Freedom

February 1918 Lithuania, an independent state and later a Grand Duchy under the former Russian empire, is proclaimed an independent kingdom under the protection of Germany.

November 1918 Lithuania becomes an independent republic.

1920 Vilnius and other Lithuanian territory is occupied by Poland and is not reunited with Lithuania until 1939.

1939 A nonaggression pact is reached by the Soviet Foreign Minister, Vyacheslav M. Molotov, and Hitler's Foreign Minister, Joachim von Ribbentrop. Secret protocols give Moscow predominance in Lithuania and the other Baltic states, Estonia and Latvia.

1940 The Soviet Union occupies the three Baltic states, which become Soviet republics.

1941 The Baltic states are occupied by Nazi Germany. Lithuania's sizable Jewish minority is largely annihilated.

1944 Soviet authority is restored in the Baltics.

1953 Longstanding armed resistance by Lithuanian partisans against Soviet power ceases.

1972 A wave of discontent breaks out in Lithuania. Protest petitions and other appeals for help are smuggled out.

October 1988 A grassroots Lithuanian political organization called Sajudis, or the Movement, holds its inaugural congress in Vilnius. It reports a membership of 180,000 and draws more than 200,000 supporters into the streets for a torchlit parade.

February 1989 Sajudis announces that its ultimate goal is to restore "an independent and neutral Lithuanian state in a demilitarized zone." It also affirms that Lithuania was occupied by the Red Army against the Lithuanians' will.

Aug. 22, 1989 A commission of the Lithuanian parliament declares that Moscow's annexation of the republic in 1940 was invalid. The commission thereby becomes the first official body to mount a direct challenge to the legitimacy of Soviet rule in Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia.

Sept. 23, 1989 The Lithuanian parliament votes to declare the 1940 Soviet annexation invalid, thus providing what could become the legal basis for Lithuania to secede. The unanimous vote makes Lithuania the first of the three Baltic republics to mount a formal challenge to the legitimacy of Soviet rule.

Dec. 7, 1989 The Lithuanian parliament votes overwhelmingly to abolish the Communist Party's guaranteed monopoly on power. Lithuania thus becomes the first of the 15 Soviet republics to do so.

Dec. 20, 1990 The Communist Party of Lithuania votes overwhelmingly to break away from the Communist leadership in Moscow. It is the first local party in Soviet history to declare itself independent of the Kremlin. The Lithuanian party then declares that a chief goal is the creation of "an independent, democratic Lithuanian state."

January 1990 Mikhail S. Gorbachev, after criticizing the vote at first, meets with Lithuanian Communist Party leaders and indicates that he understands the motivation behind the vote. He says he will not attempt to make them undo it.

Feb. 24, 1990 Lithuania holds parliamentary elections, the first multiparty vote in the Soviet Union since shortly after the Bolshevik Revolution. The electorate strongly rejects the Communist Party and provides the parliament with a firm mandate for independence.

March 8, 1990 Lithuanian officials report that President Gorbachev has demanded that Lithuania pay the equivalent of \$33 billion in compensation if the republic breaks away.

March 11, 1990 The Lithuanian parliament elects the first non-Communist premier of a Soviet republic. It also changes the name of the republic. The Parliament then votes to have Lithuania secede from the Soviet Union and recover the independence that was lost in 1940.